

In the claims:

Please **amend** claims 1, 4-10, 12-20, 22, and 23 as shown below. Please **add** new claims 24 and 25.

1. (Currently amended) A covering for application to a surface top ~~comprises~~comprising

- (i) a semi-permanent adhesive layer to be in contact with the top,
- (ii) a clear carrier layer,
- (iii) a display layer which is printed on the carrier layer,

wherein the table covering is arranged such that when applied to a surface top the nature of the covering is not readily visible except for the printed area, permitting the surface top to be visible through a substantial portion of the covering.

2. (Original) A covering as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a substrate of release paper to be removed before application of the covering to a surface.

3. (Original) A table covering as claimed in Claim 1, arranged to cover substantially all of the surface top.

4. (Currently amended) A covering according to Claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, in which the covering is made to cover substantially the whole of the surface top, but the display layer is substantially less in area than the carrier layer.

5. (Currently amended) A covering according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, which is of a size and/or shape suitable to extend only over a part of a surface top.

6. (Currently amended) A covering ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~according to Claim 1, in which ~~wherein~~ the clear carrier layer has a thickness of not more than 100 microns.

7. (Currently amended) A covering according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 6, in which the thickness of the clear carrier layer is in the range 10 to 100 microns.
8. (Currently amended) A covering according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 7, in which the thickness of the clear carrier layer is in the range 15 to 70 microns.
9. (Currently amended) A covering according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1, in which the clear carrier layer is a polyethylene terephthalate film.
10. (Currently amended) A covering according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1, which includes a layer of polymer film which is to protect the display layer and is glued over the display layer by means of a second layer of adhesive.
11. (Original) A covering according to Claim 10, in which the layer of polymer film is made from clear oriented polypropylene.
12. (Currently amended) A covering according to Claim 10 ~~or 11~~, in which the layer of polymer film has a thickness in the range 5 to 20 microns.
13. (Currently amended) A covering according to Claim 10, ~~11 or 12~~, in which the layer of adhesive is a clear EVA adhesive.
14. (Currently amended) A covering according to Claim 10, ~~11, 12 or 13~~, in which ~~wherein~~, the layer of polymer film is a material approved for food contact applications.
15. (Currently amended) A covering according to ~~preceding claim~~ Claim 1, which comprises additionally a second layer of release paper on the surface of the covering opposite to said substrate, the second layer of release paper being an aid to handling of the covering during its application to a surface top.

16. (Currently amended) A covering according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1, in which the printed display layer is discontinuous.
17. (Currently amended) A covering according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1, in which the semi-permanent adhesive layer comprises a solvent-based water clear acrylic adhesive.
18. (Currently amended) A covering according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1, wherein the clear carrier layer is a polymer.
19. (Currently amended) A table covering comprising a covering ~~as claimed in any preceding claim~~ according to Claim 1, for application to a table, ~~in which~~ wherein said surface top is a table top.
20. (Currently amended) A method of finishing a table top which comprises providing a smooth table surface which is free of protuberances and applying to the table top a table covering ~~in accordance with any one of the preceding claims~~ according to Claim 2, the layer (i) of release paper being removed from the table covering to allow the semi-permanent adhesive layer (ii) to adhere to the table top.
21. (Original) A method of finishing a table top according to Claim 20, in which the table covering includes a second layer of release paper on the surface of the covering opposite to the said substrate, to facilitate handling of the table covering.
22. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 20 ~~or 21~~, in which the edge or edges of the table covering which are on the table top are not more than 50 mm, from the edge of the table top.

23. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 20, ~~21 or 22~~, in which the table covering is of a shape and size to wrap over a part or parts of one or more edges of the table top to which it is applied.

24. (New) A surface top covering for use in a commercial eating and/or drinking establishment by a customer using the surface top, said covering being applicable to the surface top and including a clear carrier film layer bearing a printed area forming a printed display layer constituting a promotional medium, and a semi-permanent adhesive layer to contact the surface top and to grip the surface top securely whilst the covering is in use by customers in the commercial eating and/or drinking establishment whilst not allowing the covering to be removed readily or damaged by customers and yet allowing complete removal and replacement of the covering with the carrier film layer, printed display layer and semi-permanent adhesive layer after a specified length of time.

25. (New) A method of converting a surface top into a promotional medium in a commercial eating and/or drinking establishment in which the surface top is used by customers, said method including providing a surface top covering having a clear carrier film layer bearing a printed area forming a printed display layer constituting the promotional medium, a semi-permanent adhesive layer and a layer of release paper covering the semi-permanent adhesive layer, ensuring that the surface top is clean, smooth and free of protuberances, removing the layer of release paper and applying the covering to the surface top by contacting the semi-permanent adhesive layer with the clean and smooth surface top to grip the surface top securely whilst the covering is in use by the customers whilst not allowing the covering to be removed readily or damaged by the customers and yet allowing complete removal of the covering, completely removing the covering

with the carrier film layer, printed display layer and semi-permanent adhesive layer from the surface top after a specified length of time, and replacing the removed covering by applying another surface top covering having the carrier film layer, printed display layer constituting the promotional medium and semi-permanent adhesive layer to the surface top by removing the release paper layer and contacting the semi-permanent adhesive layer with the surface top.